GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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Photograph by A. W. Cutler. © National Geographic Society.

A SARDINIAN DONKEY DRAWS THIS VEGETABLE CART IN PALERMO, SICILY. (See Bulletin No. 4.)
Compare the size of this donkey with the height of the man and the boy and you will have an idea how small he is.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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The Pacific: Maneuver Ground of Fleets and Diplomats

IF THE PACIFIC were merely a great ocean devoid of islands or with as few bits of land as those in the North Atlantic, probably there would be no "Pacific problem." As it is, each island may be visualized not inappropriately as the dot under a vast, hazy question-mark. To split hairs, it is not so much "the problem of the Pacific" that is bothering the world, as the problem of its islands.

If modern fleets had to be operated 6,000 miles from home without fuel bases, or if cables had to span such distances under water without relay stations, offensive naval warfare and telegraphic communication over wires would be practically impossible. The great powers of the world woke up to this fact in earnest about a generation ago and began taking over island bases and stations in the Pacific that had previously seemed of little more significance than stages for exotic dances and cannibal feasts. Before this, islands and the lands bordering the world's greatest ocean had been acquired chiefly with the idea of exploiting their products, and only the larger areas were considered important. With the realization of the valuable parts that naval bases and relay stations might play in the future, there developed a keen interest in even the tiniest rocks and coral rings.

U. S. Has Big "Frontage" in Pacific

As landlords of the domains that bound the vast bowl of the Pacific now sit three great vitally interested powers—the United States, Great Britain, and Japan. In addition there are four nations hardly less interested—China, Russia, Holland, and France. Among those countries whose interests are by no means negligible are Mexico, Chile and the other west coast Latin-American States. Spain and Germany, once interested, at least to the extent that France is now interested, have passed from the Pacific; but in passing each has accentuated the problems of the United States.

What may be called the "stakes" of the various countries whose lands hem in the Pacific vary greatly on a basis of their coast lines. Leaving minor convolutions of the coasts out of consideration in every case, the United States leads in miles of frontage on the Pacific with more than 4,000 miles, counting both the sweep of the Aleutian Islands and the part of Alaska above them. The Philippines add a direct frontage of about 1,000 miles more on the other side of the great ocean.

Russian Coast Line Important

Asiatic Russia is second with approximately 3,500 miles from Bering Strait to Chosen (Korea), counting the coast line of the sea of Okhotsk, comparable in size to our own Gulf of Mexico.

Across the southwestern corner of the Pacific, British territory stretches from Dutch New Guinea to New Zealand, a distance of about 3,500 miles, but with a break of over 1,000 miles between Australia and New Zealand. In a way, however, Australia may fairly be considered entirely a Pacific land, giving Great Britain by far the greatest coast line. The continent has for protection a coast line of approximately 8,000 miles, easily reached by fleets from the

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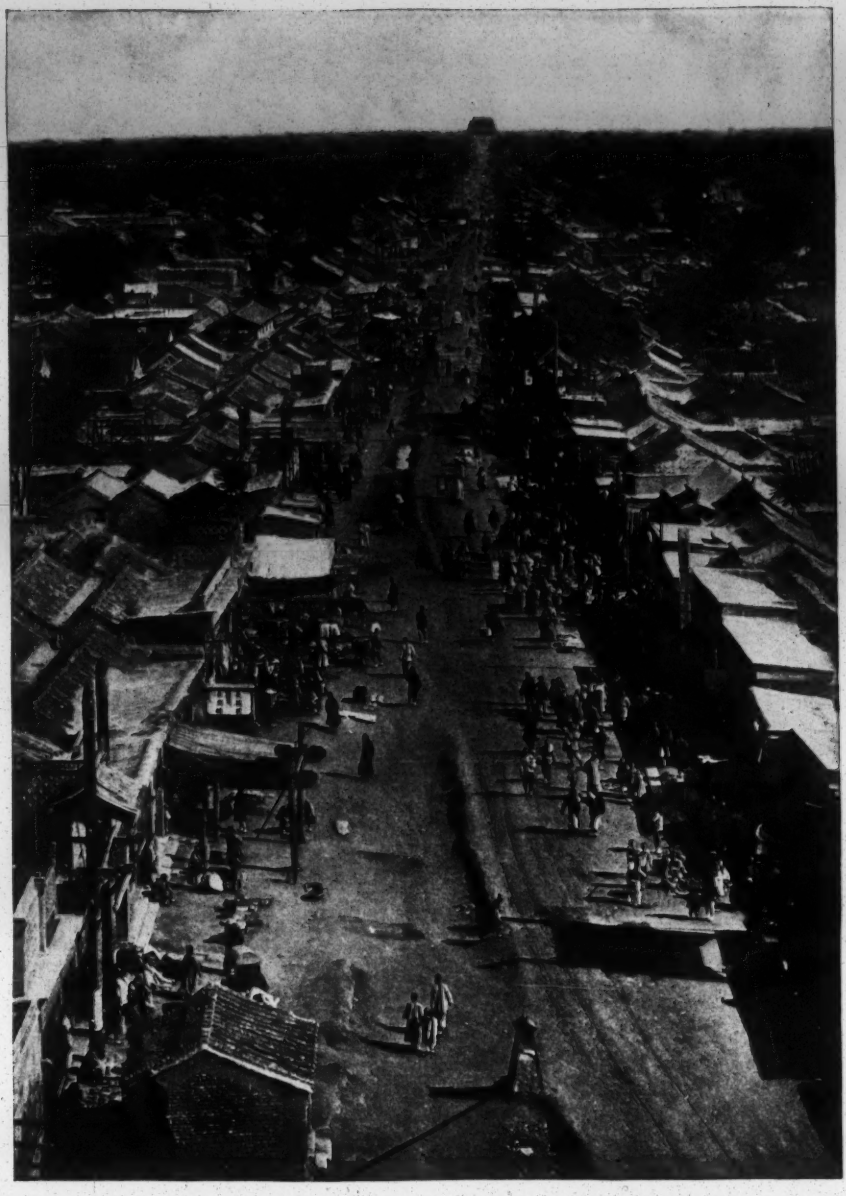

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MANY OF PEKING'S STREETS ARE WIDE AND STRAIGHT FOR SEVERAL MILES

Such is not the case in other Chinese cities. Peking is different in appearance from Shanghai, Canton or Hankow because Peking is a Tatar, rather than a Chinese, city. These shops, you will note, are very different from ours, and the manner of buying also is different. (See Bulletin No. 3.)

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Chow Time—At the Zoo

AS YOU have watched the animals in the zoo at feeding time, have you ever thought of the man who goes marketing for this family and the things that must be kept on a pantry shelf for their meals?

Photograph by L. Peterson. © National Geographic Society.

Introducing a Little Black Bear to a Little Brown Bear at Seward, Alaska.

If you think the basket you sometimes carry home from the store is heavy, remember the zoo housekeeper, who must place a morning order for ten pounds of hay and four quarts of grain to feed his baby buffalo. And this is just one of the minor items on the daily menu that the superintendent of one famous zoological garden must provide for his varied family.

A chimpanzee must have two oranges, a cup of boiled rice and two eggs beaten in a glass and a half of milk for his breakfast; a half-dozen bananas and some warm milk at noon; and a slice of rye bread, two oranges and two glasses of milk for his dinner. To add to the keeper's woes and quite a bit to his amusement a baby monkey has to be fed occasionally from a bottle and later with a spoon —for he must get his table manners early in life.

When "Hippo" Rings the Breakfast Bell

And how is the hippo fed? He knows the hour and the man, and when both approach he opens the enormous cavity between his jaws and awaits the shoveling in of three and a half quarts of rolled oats, three and a half quarts of bran, the four heads of cabbage, the half basket of potatoes, and the five pounds of hay that make his meal.

The elephant goes him one better on the hay. He needs 75 pounds for his morning meal and his eight quarts of oats and eight quarts of bran in the afternoon.

The poor "pater familias" at the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C., must provide for the queer members of his household about 300 pounds

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Pacific, and it matters little from a naval point of view that half the water that bathes this long shore line is called the Indian Ocean. Canada adds approximately 500 miles to British Pacific coast lines.

The islands that constitute Japan stretch along Asia from near the tip of Kamchatka to the southern point of Taiwan (Formosa), and thus have a frontage on the Pacific of about 2,700 miles. The coast line of Japan is much greater, however, due to the western frontage on the Sea of Okhotsk, the Sea of Japan, and the Yellow Sea.

Philippines Screen Asiatic Lands

Screened by the Philippines and the British possessions in northern Borneo, the Dutch possessions have a direct frontage on the Pacific of only about 1,000 miles; but their total coast line, counting that on the Indian Ocean, is many times that figure. China's coast line, too, is screened by Japan. It amounts to about 2,000 miles. French Indo-China, behind the Philippines, has a coast line of about 1,000 miles on the China Sea.

On the eastern side of the Pacific, Mexico has a coast line of more than 2,000 miles, while that of Chile is more than 2,500 miles. The aggregate Pacific coast line of the remaining Latin-American countries amounts to about 3,500 miles.

But it is the small scattered islands controlled by these bordering nations that constitute the crux of the "Pacific problem." Practically all the islands in the Pacific proper are under the control of Great Britain, France, the United States, and Japan. All of the French and most of the British holdings are situated south of the equator, leaving the United States and Japan in close competition above that line. Guam is practically surrounded by newly acquired Japanese islands, formerly owned by Germany; and Japanese lands skirt the Philippines on three sides. The United States is not a large holder of Pacific islands, but it owns the group which is by far the most important strategically—Hawaii.

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Adventures With the American Dollar

VARIATIONS in currency exchange rates have not only a broad economic significance, but also an extremely personal pertinence to the traveler. A member of the *National Geographic Magazine* staff relates some of his experiences with exchange upon a trip through eighteen countries to compile information and collect picture material for the Society, as follows:

It is only in times of extreme stress that the average American considers the "cart wheel" and the "greenback" as commodities much like flour or madras shirting, but for most of the world foreign exchange is a vital matter every day in the year. When it takes twenty silver dollars to buy an "X" and a "V" in Budapest, it sounds like a fairy tale to the man who stops to think that it is Uncle Sam's own currency which is treated in this manner. But the Chinese keeper of an exchange shop makes it as plain as day.

A Chinaman Makes It All Clear

You walk up to his open counter, facing the sidewalk, and ask him how much American dollars are selling for that morning.

"This morning, price very bad. My no want 'em. No man want to buy. No steamer leave today. Saturday big steamer leave for 'Merica, can give you more better price."

During an attempt to reseat the boy emperor on the Chinese throne, in the summer of 1917, a money changer in Hankow sold me some Peking notes for 20 per cent of their face value, asserting that I could get full value in Peking, if I ever got there. I was on my way to Petrograd and had to get my passport amended in Peking, so I took a chance on twenty-five dollars' worth of Peking notes issued by the Bank of Communications, which cost me five dollars in Hankow, the railway service between the Yangtze port and the capital being interrupted at the time.

Money Value Jumped 700 Per Cent

Most of the money I spent at face value in Peking for government telegrams, but as I was leaving I invested a few dollars in Chinese postage stamps. At Harbin, where the Chinese and Russian post offices then competed, I trusted my letters to the Chinese post because of a censorship on Russian mail and instead of buying Chinese stamps in Russian currency at a high exchange rate I affixed stamps which I had bought in Peking with Chinese currency that was debased in Hankow. My profit on the transaction ran over 700 per cent.

Certain firms and mission boards in China are in the habit of guaranteeing their workers a rate of at least two Chinese dollars for every gold dollar in their salary. Otherwise a gold salary would be subject to a decided variation, since Chinese dollars in 1915 were worth only forty American cents and in 1918 they were worth nearly a dollar. Under this arrangement employes of one American corporation were sending home more money each month than they received as salary. Two hundred dollars a month, converted at two to one would bring four hundred Chinese dollars. For 220 of these the American could buy American exchange for $200 and he would have 180 Chinese dollars to live on.

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of horse meat to satisfy the hunger pangs of his lions, tigers, wolves, foxes and leopards, one lion alone requiring twelve pounds to turn his attention from his secret desire for a tempting portion of the anatomy of his keeper.

Ostrich Likes His Alfalfa Chopped

The horse meat is merely a small item on the order for the day at this zoo. There are also 120 pounds of fish for the sea lions and seals, the fish-ducks, and other fish-eating birds; and for some of the connoisseurs a long list from the vegetable kingdom—carrots, both kinds of potatoes, beets, spinach, cabbage and turnips; and quantities of eggs and milk for the babies. These creatures are fastidious. The ostrich must have his two quarts of alfalfa chopped, and his quart of corn cracked, and the other constituents of his dietary—bran, carrots, beets, and bread—must be properly balanced. The giraffe is sometimes temperamental and when he takes a notion that he won't bend his head for his food, there is nothing for his keeper to do but climb a fence or get a long stepladder.

Snakes are partial to eggs. They also like rats, birds, and small mammals. The boa wraps himself around his dinner, squeezes it and swallows it whole. If he has two animals to manage at the same time, he ties one up in a knot at the end of his tail while he sticks his long teeth into the other. Nor does it bother him if the animal he has to swallow is larger than his head. His jaws are loose and elastic. He opens them both vertically and horizontally as he gently urges down his prey, and the course it takes down his body is perfectly evident.

Some Animals Require Imported Dainties

One zoo owned until recently a kaola, or Australian bear, for whom eucalyptus leaves from California had to be provided. The Prince of Wales also owns one of these animals. The reindeer and caribou must have their moss imported from Canada, and any zoo fortunate enough to own an apteryx must dig earth worms to soothe his hunger pangs.

The yearly "table" of one such zoo averages between $36,000 and $40,000. But cities consider the investment pays ample dividends in stimulating nature study, in inculcating love of living things, and in adding to the lure of outdoors for city dwellers.

The visitors to the National Zoological Park, adjoining Washington's beautiful Rock Creek Park, numbered 2,230,000 during the year ending June 30, 1920.

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Sicily: Where Political Volcanoes Rumble

SICILY, long ago referred to by some Italian statesman as "the Ireland of Italy," recently justified that appellation more fully as a result of the seizure of landed estates by peasants. The island's appearance on the first page would be nothing unusual if newspaper files ran back 3,000 years.

Mt. Etna has provided perennial casualties that make a Wall Street bomb explosion seem a trifling mishap. Plato's visits to the island were heralded as broadly, if not by printer's ink, as was Mme. Curie's tour of the United States. What Sunday magazine section could find a more lurid "spread" than Pindar's story of how Phalaris erected a bronze bull, built a fire underneath, and threw his enemies in the cauldron to see how nearly their groans resembled the bellows of a live bull? And Dionysius the Elder, with his temple, city wall, and palace building, a steady source of real estate news, certainly would have "landed" on the first page with the story of his famous marble harbor at Syracuse.

Syracuse the New York of Hellas

Or suppose that there had been in the days of ancient Utica, Troy and Syracuse, hotels operated as they are in the modern municipal namesakes of those cities. Their registers, in Sicilian cities, would show such names as Sappho, Xenophanes, Aeschylus. Athens and Corinth are credited with being the Bostons of Greek civilization; but Syracuse, in size and activity, was its New York. And lest any New Yorker object to that distinction it may be well to mention that it takes into reckoning the Syracuse prestige in letters, art, and philosophy.

Moreover, Syracuse, when it had an estimated million or more population, and was the foremost city of Hellas, possessed a classic prototype of Greenwich Village. Among its artists and thinkers were pretenders. Dionysius himself, not content with protean achievements as a ruler, city builder, and conqueror, aspired to write verse. His efforts at first were criticized by Philoxenus and were hissed at the Olympic Games, but finally he won a prize at Athens for a tragedy.

The "Unwritten Law" in Sicily

Files of our imaginary Sicilian newspapers also would contain mention of appeals to an "unwritten law"—for the operations of the Mafia inevitably suggest this latter-day plea, except that the Mafia code was far more inclusive. The much-talked-about Mafia is not—was not, more properly, for it only survives in parts of Sicily as remote as our own feudal spots—a secret order or clan. Rather, as someone wittily remarked of an American city in another connection, it is a state of mind. It represents the idea that "vengeance is mine," the belief that appeal to law is a weakness, that the individual is the supreme arbiter of his own affairs, even when they involve others.

Those who hold to the theory that "blood washes blood" have other proverbs which lay utmost stress upon silence. "To speak little is a fine art" is one. "The man who talks enough says nothing" is another. Hence there are not enough data to supply any adequate account of the origin of the Mafia. One may get a

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Consular officers get a guaranteed rate of exchange. Military officers get their pay and allowances at the day's rate. In Peking, during the war, a consular clerk earning $2,000 a year, on which he was guaranteed a rate of $2.60, was receiving more money than a lieutenant colonel, who was getting $1.15 for his money.

When There Is a Premium on Coppers

A silver dollar, when exchanged at a foreign store, contains 100 cents. Thus if one makes a 20 cent purchase at a Shanghai department store, he gets 80 cents change, which seems fair enough until one discovers that at an exchange shop one can get eleven dimes and three cents for each dollar. When he changes one of the dimes, he will get, not ten coppers, but eleven or twelve. So that the price of a dollar in coppers runs from 130 to 140, instead of the seemingly logical 100.

This state of things gives rise to the "Oh, by the way" habit. Foreign stores will accept up to 50 cents in "small money" but more than that amount must be paid in "big money." A woman under such conditions develops a poor memory and yields to sudden impulse. She buys something for 50 cents and thus completes the transaction. But before she leaves the counter, she says "Oh, by the way," and purchases another 50 cents' worth, thus keeping a dime and two or three coppers for herself. The store gets its money back by returning seven dimes as change for a 30-cent purchase and thus makes its income look, not like 30 cents, but like 44 to 50.

A Trip That Cost $200 Less Than Nothing

In Tiflis, in the spring of 1918, the rouble was selling at 15 to the dollar. I bought 6,000, for there was no telling how long it would take to get out of Russia at that time. When I reached Vladivostok, some weeks later, the Japanese were preparing to send an army into Siberia and were buying up roubles. The rate there was 6.35 roubles for a dollar. I traveled from the Caucasus to the Pacific and took nearly two months to do it, and when I changed my money at the end of the trip, it had cost me about $200 less than nothing. The professor with whom I had traveled for several months in Russia and Turkestan had converted all his gold into roubles before leaving America and had been spending roubles that cost him 30 cents each which bought no more than those I had bought in Tiflis for eight.

On my recent trip to India I expected to cross Persia on my way from Eastern Europe and since American gold had been worth four times as much as American paper in the Persian bazaars in 1918, I carried a small bag of gold with me. The trip across Persia proved impossible and it was not till the eve of sailing for home that I sold some of the gold which I had carried for thousands of miles and which had caused me endless arguments at nearly every boundary. Most of it I paid to the United States Customs on my arrival, after having carried it for ten months and a hundred thousand miles. There were only two times on the trip when I could have sold it for as much as I could get for a letter of credit.

Once in a while Fortune smiles on the traveler. Last December, in Bombay, I tried to cash a Colombo draft. The bank could not quote a rate and sent it to its Colombo office, advancing me such money as I needed in the meantime. A week later, in Karachi, I received the balance of the amount. There had been bookkeeping and telegraph charges. But the rupee had decreased in value during the time it took to complete the deal and the result was that I received nearly two hundred more rupees than I would had the draft been marked Bombay instead of Colombo.

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Karelia: A Little Finland

IN KARELIA, or more properly East Karelia, Bolshevik troops have been fighting to hold this latest of the old Russian units which is seeking its freedom from the Soviet Government. If stubborn boundary questions could be solved by the simple device of applying descriptive names, East Karelia, now politically a part of Russia, would be included in Finland, for Finland (a name applied by outsiders to what the Finns call Suomi) means "the land of fens or swamps," and East Karelia has as many swamps and bogs, considering its size, as its western neighbor. The undistinctive boundary between Russia and Finland cuts directly across many swamps and rivers and for very few of its 800 or more miles does it coincide with a geographic dividing line.

Gave Finland Its Epic

And just as this imaginary line divides geographic features, so it divides people of the same race. The eastern portion of Finland is often spoken of as Karelia, and it is for this reason that the adjacent Russian territory is distinguished as East Karelia. So, too, the people of eastern Finland are known as Karelians and are one in blood and traditions with the Karelians in Russia. In fact, Russian Karelia, free from the Swedish influence that has molded much of the culture of Finland, and largely neglected by the Russians, has preserved in purer form the ancient customs of the Finnish race. From East Karelia were collected some of the most important of the old runes, sung by generation after generation, that make up the great Finnish epic, the Kavala, which ranks as one of the greatest of the racial epics.

Long before the Slavic Russians moved westward to the Baltic the Karelians occupied the present East Karelia, the territory eastward to Lake Onega and the White Sea, and northward to the Arctic Ocean. They occupied, too, the region in which St. Petersburg was built; and the stones of that magnificent city were laid in anguish largely by captive Karelians taken by the armies of Peter the Great in forays along the Finnish border.

Land of Russia's War Railway

In the St. Petersburg district the establishment of a great city largely drove out the former inhabitants, but throughout the remainder of the old Karelian territory north to the Arctic they have been little interfered with. Even on the Kola peninsula, between the White Sea and the Arctic Ocean, the Karelians in 1915 made up 59 per cent of the population and the Russians only 27, the remainder being composed mostly of Lapps.

It was through the edge of Karelia that the Russians built their famous Murman railroad in 1916 after German successes had cut them off from contact with their allies through the Baltic. This road affords an outlet to an arctic port—Murmansk—open the year round. American expeditionary forces went into northern Russia through Murmansk and were kept supplied over this far northern road.

The difficulties encountered in building the Murman road form an excellent indication to the character of the country in Karelia. Throughout its southern

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clue from the panorama of Sicily's fateful history. Fifteen nations had a foothold there in its historic span of nearly 3,000 years.

Island Once Linked Europe to Africa

Geologically, Sicily is a new-born babe among the land masses, even if it is a Methuselah of human history. It all but halves the Mediterranean into two great bowls. In fact, it once linked Europe and Africa; the famous Etna having been a peak in a mountain range that begins in the Apennines of today and twists to the sweep of the Atlas range westward from Tunis. Today it is an isolated mass, in the position of a football about to be kicked by the toe of Italy's boot.

In size Sicily is comparable with our State of Maryland, including Chesapeake Bay, but minus the eastern shore; and in shape it resembles the same state, minus its western panhandle. It is the largest island in the Mediterranean, but it is crowded. Only five of our states exceed its population.

Vesuvius "A Mere Pocket Volcano"

Palermo, Catania and Messina, in the order mentioned, are Sicily's principal cities. Catania, at the base of Mt. Etna, has been buried and often partly ruined by the volcano beside which, it has been said, Vesuvius is "a mere pocket volcano, for which space might be found upon the flank of the greater mountain."

Before the harbor of Messina is Charybdis; Scylla, its companion in classic lore, lies opposite in Calabria, across the narrowest stretch of the Straits of Messina. Messina suffered what is probably the world's most cruel earthquake in 1908 when about 100,000 people, two-thirds of its population, lost their lives because of a tremor of only 35 seconds' duration.

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Photograph by John W. Church. © *National Geographic Society.*

A NATIVE HOUSE ON ONE OF THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS, ONE OF GROUPS ONLY RECENTLY VISITED TO ANY EXTENT BY WHITE MEN.

Each thatched hut has a platform of stone, made without cement or mortar. The house furnishings consist of two or three mats, upon which the family sleep.

section the line had to zigzag its way among countless lakes and swamps and in the north it was necessary to build it across many permanent bogs. Parts of the original roadbed in the far north, constructed in winter, were supposedly built on rock, but when summer came the material turned out to be ice, and the rails sank into the mire.

Finland Wants Northern Port

East Karelia is somewhat colder than southern Finland, but though it is as far north as southern Greenland its climate is by no means extremely rigorous. Like adjacent portions of Finland, it is tempered by proximity to the Baltic and by winds from the far-reaching Gulf Stream. It is this stream, incidentally, sweeping across the Atlantic from America's southland, that makes year-round commerce possible at Murmansk and along the entire Murman coast.

Finland's interest in East Karelia is a double one. Not only does she wish to be united to her own kinsmen, but she also desires an open port in the north. One of the principal reasons for desiring an Arctic port is said to be a wish to establish closer relations with the United States, which by this direct, open route is closer than by the somewhat tortuous way through the English Channel, the North Sea, and the Baltic.

Bulletin No. 5, February 13, 1922.

Photograph by Harriet Chalmers Adams. © *National Geographic Society.*

HATS FOR SALE; CEBU, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

These woven hats are worn in the rice fields and are exported from Cebu. They represent only a minor one among many important factors in the growing economic importance of Pacific islands. (See Bulletin No. 1.)